Placing of Statement of Expenditure authorised by Government

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Sir, under Rule 58 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 28 (1) (c) of the Government of Cochin Act, 1113.

39 Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous and Unforeseen charges Rs. 3,000—For urgent flood relief measures.

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

1. 2—A-1—Agriculture—T. A. Ordinary

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 500 under "2—A-1—Agriculture—T. A. Ordinary."

The allotment sanctioned in the budget 1120 under the above head is Rs. 3,240 and out of this Rs. 2,600 has been spent by 15th Medam leaving a balance of Rs. 640 only for the remaining months of the year. This is found quite insufficient for the rest of the year. The Director of Agriculture had to go on tour to Delhi, Madras and Trivandrum to attend a few Committee meetings there. These tours were not anticipated while the budget of the current year was prepared. An additional allotment of Rs. 500 is necessary under the above head to meet the expenditure.

Demand put and carried

2. 2-A-2—Farm Operations—Miscellaneous

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 150—under "2—A-2—Farm Operations—Miscellaneous".

A monthly grant of Rs. 25 has been sanctioned to the Vegetable and Dairy Produce Co-operative Society, Trichur. There is no definite provision in the current year's budget for the payment of the grant to the society. The society started work in Makaram 1120. An additional allotment of Rs. 150 is, therefore, necessary for payment of grant this year.

Demand put and carried

3. "2—A-5 (b) Public Gardens—Other charges"

4. "2—A-5 (c) Gardens attached to residential quarters—Other charges"

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 50—"2—A-5 (*b*) Public Gardens—Other charges" and also to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 150—"2—A-5 (c) Gardens attached to residential quarters—other charges".

The amounts distributed for the maintenance of the gardens at Trichur out of the allotments sanctioned for the gardens for the current year are found to be insufficient to meet the requirements of the current year. The main reasons for the increase in expenditure, are high cost of manure, increased rate of wages, and cultivation of vegetable crops. The sale proceeds from these crops will result in corresponding increase in receipts also. Under the circumstances additional allotments of Rs. 50 under "2—A-5 (*b*) Public Gardens—Other charges" and Rs. 150 under "2—A-5 (c) gardens attached to Residential quarters—other charges" are necessary.

Demands put and carried

5. 3—A—Village Panchayats—Service labels

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 500 under "3—A—Village Panchayats—Service labels".

The allotment for service labels under "3—A—Village Panchayats" will not be sufficient to purchase stamps for the Office of the Director of Panchayats and the offices of Panchayat Overseers and Inspectors. An additional allotment of Rs. 500 is therefore necessary for the purchase of service labels.

Demand put and carried

6. 19—Sanitation and Conservancy—Cleaning charges (Cranganur)

7. 19—Sanitation and Conservancy—Dearness Allowance (Cranganur)

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 253—8—0 under "19—Sanitation and Conservancy—Cleaning charges

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(Cranganur)" and also for an additional allotment of Rs. 253—8—0 under "19—Sanitation and Conservancy—Dearness Allowance (Cranganur)".

The pay of thotties and that of the sweepers were Rs. 9 and Rs. 8 respectively and from 15th Chingam 1120 their pay was raised to Rs. 10. On accunt of the raising of the pay, which had not been contemplated at the preparation of the budget for 1120, excess expenditure to the extent of Rs. 253—8—0 under "Cleaning charges" Rs. 253—8—0 under "Dearness Allowance" has be come necessary. No reappropriation is possible. An additiqnal allotment of Rs. 253—8—0 under Cleaning charges" and Rs. 253—8—0 under "Dearness Allowance" are therefore necessary.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I am constrained to oppose this paltry demand. It may look rather strange when such a paltry amount is asked for, for paying an extra sum of Re. 1 to a class of service men whose services are absolutely necessary for maintaining the health which is recognised by the present Hon'ble Minister as the greatest wealth. I find, Sir, that a munificient increase in the pay of thotties to the tune of Re. 1 for 30 days is proposed to be given. Our experience shows, Sir, that strikes on the part of these thotties are not few in number. The dire consequences of such strikes have been experienced both in municipal as well as in rural areas. The place from which I come has been a victim of such a strike on the part of the thotties for a continuous period of full 7 days. How far this state of affairs will conduce to the well being and health of the inhabitants of the locality can well be imagined? What is the reason for these strikes, Sir? The reason is that these unfortunate servants of the benign Government do not get living wages. It is the duty of any Government, worth its name, to pay its servants remuneration just sufficient at least to give minimum living wages. Moreso in the case of the thotties who are not doing any pleasant work at all. Until we come up to the level of the great Saint of Sabarmathi that to do scavenging for oneself by oneself, is as honourable a job as any admitted good avocation till we come to that stage, Sir, the services of these men are absolutely necessary. And if we want the services of these men decent remuneration must be given to them. If not decent remuneration, at least, living wages should be paid to these people who are constrained, by dint of poverty, to take to this, in no wise, pleasant jobs. To the utter disgrace of the benign Government, Sir, they have not been pleased to pay them even that much. Therefore I was constrained to oppose the grant asked for for paying this munificent sum of 16 annas for the timely discharge of work for 30 days. Decency demands that their pay be raised at least to Rs. 20 per mensem in consideration of the particular nature of the work they are doing and the necessity for doing this work. It is only to urge this aspect of the case that I had sent up a token cut along with a few more cuts on some of the sub-demands which for reasons not known to me has not been delivered at the Council Office, although they had left my office the moment I got the agenda containing these supplementary demands. Hence it is, Sir, that at the outset I said I am constrained to oppose this, not with the idea of not allowing the amount to the Government, but to bring before the eyes of the Government this particular aspect of the case which I pray may be immediately looked into and at once acted upon. That is the prayer, Sir. I oppose the demand quite unwillingly, but for want of any other alternative method to gain the object at hand. I hope, I am confident, Mr. President, I may not have to press the point to a division.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, Hon'ble Member's intention is that the pay now granted to these thotties is very inadequate. The Government will sympathetically consider the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Thank you, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my opposition.

Demand put and carried

8. "15-1-Huzur Secretariat—Miscellaneous"

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 8,250 under "15-1—Huzur Secretariat—Miscellaneous". The amount provided in this year's budget for election expenses was only Rs. 2,000. A sum of Rs. 14,750 was subsequently sanctioned as additional allotment. It is now estimated by the Diwan Peishkar that the election expenses will come to Rs. 25,000. A further sum of Rs. 8,250 is therefore required. I request that the House may be pleased to vote the demand.

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